



Senate Majority Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2023

Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Senate Takes Action on Behavioral Health and Addiction Crises

Bills will provide data-driven recommendations, better reporting for narcotic prescriptions

SALEM, Ore - Today, the Oregon Senate voted to pass several bills that will take action on Oregon's behavioral health and addiction crises.

[House Bill 2235](#), which requires the Oregon Health Authority to convene a work group to study access to behavioral health treatment, with a focus on workforce recruitment and retention, in rural and medically underserved areas of this state.

"House Bill 2235 will pave the way for investments in our behavioral health workforce, especially in rural and underserved communities," said **Senator Wlinsvey Campos (D - Aloha)**, Senate legislative sponsor of the bill. "I look forward to listening to the work group recommendations and implementing real solutions so every Oregonian has access to high quality mental healthcare."

The Oregon Senate also passed [House Bill 3258](#) which requires pharmacies to report dispensation of controlled substances to an electronic system.

"House Bill 3258 will help us collect data to combat the abuse of prescription narcotics," said **Senator Deb Patterson (D - Salem), who chairs the Senate Healthcare Committee**. "The opioid crisis is ravaging our communities, and we should be doing everything we can to save Oregon lives."

Improving behavioral health outcomes is part of [Senate Democrats' 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 2235 and HB 3258 are among the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up,

doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, this legislation now moves to the Governor's desk for consideration.

###